In The Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A system for providing email communications, comprising:

a memory;

a processor coupled to the memory and configured to execute an e-mail client application, which includes:

message composition logic operable to present a write e-mail window including a message editor pane to a user and to compose a message to at least one recipient responsive to accepting entry of text of a body of the message in a text format into the message editor pane wherein entry of the text is accepted from the user;

write protect logic operable to protect the message against subsequent alteration by the at least one recipient, upon receiving a user indication from the user to:

enable the write protect logic through conversion of a format of a the text in a the body of the message from the text format to a picture format protected against subsequent alterations, and

send the message to the at least one recipient after conversion of the format of the text from the text format to the picture format protected against subsequent alterations.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The system of claim 2 claim 1, wherein the text in the body of the message converted to the picture format is included as an inline image within the transmitted message.

4. (currently amended) The system of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein the text in the body of the message in the picture format is stored on a central server for retrieval by the recipient.

5. (currently amended) The system of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein the text in the body of the message converted to the picture format is included as an attachment to the transmitted message.

6. (currently amended) The system of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein the picture format is a joint photographic experts group (JPEG) file.

7. (currently amended) The system of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein the picture format is a graphics image format (GIF) file.

8. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the write protect logic comprises conversion logic operable to convert the text in the body of the message <u>from the</u> ~~from a~~ text format to a portable document format (PDF).

9. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the composition logic is operable to allow the user to compose a new message, a reply to a received message or forward a received message.

10. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the client further comprises a user interface operable to allow the user to select a plurality of options, including enabling the write protect logic.

11. (currently amended) A method of protecting e-mail, the method comprising:
<u>presenting a write email window including a message editor pane;</u>
enabling a user to draft a message <u>by accepting entry of text of a body of the message</u>

in a text format into the message editor pane; ~~and~~

converting a content ~~in a~~ of the text in the body of the message ~~into~~ from the text format to a write-protected picture format such that subsequent recipients are inhibited from altering the content in the body of the message, wherein converting the content of the text in the body of the message comprises converting the content of the text in the body of the message into a write-protected picture format in response ~~thereto~~ to,

receiving an instruction from the user to write protect the message, and

receiving an instruction from the user to send the message to a recipient; and

sending the message to at least one recipient in the write-protected picture format after converting the content to the write-protected picture format.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the write-protected picture format comprises a portable document format (PDF).

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the write-protected picture format comprises a graphics image format (GIF).

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the write-protected picture format comprises a joint photographic experts group (JPEG).

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, the method further comprising:

enabling the user to choose whether to protect the message or not;

wherein converting the content in the body of the message ~~into a~~ into the write-protected picture format is performed responsive to ~~user~~ a choice of the user.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 16~~ claim 11, wherein the message is stored on a central server for viewing by the user.

18. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 16~~ claim 11, wherein the message is downloaded to a computer for viewing by the user.

19. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 16~~ claim 11, wherein the content in the body of the message in the write-protected picture format is included in the sent message as an inline image file.

20. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 16~~ claim 11, wherein the content in the body of the message in the write-protected picture format is included in the sent message as an attachment.